



San Diego City Attorney **CASEY GWINN**

MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: January 28, 2002

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SAN DIEGO "ATTORNEY OF THE YEAR" AWARD MICHAEL R. MCGUINNESS

CITY ATTORNEY CASEY GWINN MAKES ANNOUNCEMENT AT CITY COUNCIL MEETING

San Diego, Ca--San Diego City Attorney Casey Gwinn announced that Deputy City Attorney Michael R. McGuinness is the 2001 Attorney of the Year in the Office of the City Attorney. The award is given to a Civil Division Deputy City Attorney whose professional accomplishments and abilities and whose contributions to the community best demonstrate and fulfill the goals of the San Diego City Attorney's Office: to protect the quality of life and the public funds of the people of San Diego by defending and prosecuting civil lawsuits and advising and counseling the City.

McGuinness joined the San Diego City Attorney's Office in December 1987, after serving as a Senior Legal Intern. He distinguished himself as a Prosecutor in the Criminal Division. In February 1989, McGuinness was transferred to the Civil Litigation Division where he practiced in all types of tort cases specializing in police misconduct litigation. In 1998 he was appointed to establish and lead the Construction Litigation section. Under his leadership, the Construction Litigation section has recovered millions of dollars in damages from contractors and has successfully defended the City against millions of dollars in claims. In 2001, McGuinness successfully litigated a number of very important cases: a non-suit on a \$1.7 million claim

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and a negotiated settlement approximating \$500,000 in liquidated damages for the City.

San Diego City Attorney Casey Gwinn says, "In addition to Mike's skills, he leads his group by example. He personally demonstrates the work ethic he requires from his team, and treats his entire team, top to bottom, with such a high level of respect that members of his team find their work both fulfilling and enjoyable."

McGuinness received a B.A. Degree from the University of Connecticut in 1984 and a J.D. Degree from California Western School of Law in 1987. He was admitted to the California State Bar in 1987 and the United States Supreme Court in 1992.

Deputy City Attorney Michael McGuinness was recognized this afternoon at the San Diego City Council meeting. The Mayor and San Diego City Council passed a resolution proclaiming today "Michael R. McGuinness Day."

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